

***UN International Day of Peace***  
***Interfaith Service***

**Thursday, September 21, 2017**

**4:00 pm**

**Presidio Chapel**



## **Welcome and Reading of the SFIC Interfaith Statement**

**Michael G. Pappas, M.Div., Executive Director**  
*San Francisco Interfaith Council*

"This is an interfaith community. Whatever our individual belief, it can be freely expressed here with no apologies. If we are invited to offer a prayer in this setting, it should be offered according to the tradition with which we identify. If we are invited to speak on a subject from the perspective of our tradition, we are free to do so without fear of offending those who come from another tradition. We come together as people of faith to learn from each other that we might better understand the multiplicity of faith traditions in our city and in our world."

## **Muslim Call to Worship and New Year Prayer**

**Fatih Ferdi Ates, Director**  
*Pacifica Institute*

Let us remember Allah's Messenger's Hijrah from Makkah to Medina, and the transformation of Yasrib into Medina.

Let us reminisce about Hijrah, the great milestone in the Islamic cause.

Let us remember Umar's adoption of Hijrah as the beginning of the Islamic calendar.

And let us remember that the real Hijrah today is to emigrate from evil that is forbidden from Allah and His Messenger.

Let us also remember the month of Muharram

Let us remember Muharram ul haram, the month worthy of reverence, and Ashura, and also remember Karbala with sorrow.

Let us remember Hussain, the highest of martyrs, the lord of paradise youth.

Let us send our greetings and regards to Allah's Messenger, and his family.

As Year 1438 is gonna be an End

And We'll Enter in New Year

With New Hopes and Plans

Let's Pray to Allah for

A Blessed and Wonderful

New Year with Peace and

All our Dreams Come True

## **Prayer for the Jewish New Year**

**Rita R. Semel, Past Chair**  
*San Francisco Interfaith Council*

May we hold lovingly in our thoughts those who suffer from tyranny, subjection, cruelty, and injustice, and work every day towards the alleviation of their suffering.

May we recognize our solidarity with the stranger, outcast, downtrodden, abused, and deprived, that no human being be treated as "other," that our common humanity weaves us together in one fabric of mutuality, one garment of destiny.

May we pursue the Biblical prophet's vision of peace, that we might live harmoniously with each other and side by side, respecting differences, cherishing diversity, with no one exploiting the weak, each living without fear of the other, each revering Divinity in every human soul.

May we struggle against institutional injustice, free those from oppression and contempt, act with purity of heart and mind, despising none, defrauding none, hating none, cherishing all, honoring every child of God, every creature of the earth.

May all peoples know peace in this New Year, and may we nurture kindness and love everywhere.

### **Singing of "Let There Be Peace On Earth"**

*Led by Brian Vouglas*

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth,  
The peace that was meant to be.

With God our Creator  
We are family  
Let us walk with each other  
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,  
Let this be the moment now;  
With every step I take,  
Let this be my solemn vow

To take each moment and live each moment  
In peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me

### **Procession of Interfaith Peace Partners**

#### ***Intercessions***

***Father Kenneth Westray, Pastor***  
***St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church***

*Assisi Litany: Modified from the Assisi Pledge for Peace in Assisi, Italy, in February 2002, Pope John Paul II and religious leaders of different faiths developed and sent this pledge to political leaders around the world in the hope to inspire love, fellowship and peace on earth.*

We commit ourselves to proclaiming our firm conviction that violence and terrorism are incompatible with the authentic spirit of religion, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

We commit ourselves to educating people to mutual respect and esteem, in order to help bring about a peaceful coexistence between people of different ethnic groups, cultures and religions, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

We commit ourselves to fostering the culture of dialogue, so that there will be an increase of understanding and mutual respect between individuals and people, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

We commit ourselves to defending the right of everyone to live a decent life in accordance with their own cultural identity, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

We commit ourselves to forgiving one another for past and present errors and prejudices, for without justice there can be no true peace, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

We commit ourselves to taking up the side of the poor and helpless, to speaking out for those who have no voice, and to working effectively to change these situations, We Pray

R: Hear Our Prayer

### **Interfaith Prayer for Peace**

***Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister***

*First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco*

As people of faith, our action should always flow from prayer and reflection. Prayer reminds us of God's presence within all of us, helps us focus on what we know to be true - such as the dignity of every human person - gives us hope, and moves us to a concern for peace with justice in our world. Today we gather to remember our common dignity, our unique heritage as children of God, and our interconnectedness as brothers and sisters in the one human family.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation whose goodness fills our hearts with joy. Blessed are you who have brought us together this day to work in harmony and peace. Strengthen us with your grace and wisdom for you are God for ever and ever.

## **Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly**

***The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian, Jr., Executive Director, United Religions Initiative and  
Fred Fielding, Board President, Interfaith Center at the Presidio***

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.95 and Add.1)] 55/282. International Day of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, by which it declared that the third Tuesday of September, the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly, shall be officially proclaimed and observed as International Day of Peace and shall be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples,

Recalling also its other relevant resolutions, including resolution 55/14 of 3 November 2000,

Reaffirming the contribution that the observance and celebration of the International Day of Peace makes in strengthening the ideals of peace and alleviating tensions and causes of conflict,

Considering the unique opportunity it offers for a cessation of violence and conflict throughout the world, and the related importance of achieving the broadest possible awareness and observance of the International Day of Peace among the global community,

Desiring to draw attention to the objectives of the International Day of Peace, and therefore to fix a date for its observance each year that is separate from the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly,

1. Decides that, with effect from the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the International Day of Peace shall be observed on 21 September each year, with this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace;
2. Declares that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day;
3. Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire.

111th plenary meeting 7 September 2001

## Reflection

**Heidi Kuhn**, *Founder & CEO Roots of Peace*  
*Honoring the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Mines to Vines"*

## Prayer of St. Francis

*Led by **Angela Alioto, Esq.**, Founder, Renaissance Project at The National Shrine of St. Francis and Former Board President of San Francisco Board of Supervisors*

Lord make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is despair, hope  
Where there is darkness, light  
And where there is sadness, joy  
O divine master grant that I may  
not so much seek to be consoled as to console  
to be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love  
For it is in giving that we receive  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
And it's in dying that we are born to eternal life  
Amen

## Candle Lighting Prayers

**Sr. Sukanya Belsare**, *Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center*  
**Sensei Elaine Donlin**, *The Buddhist Church of San Francisco*  
**Teresa Morales**, *The Baha'i Community in San Francisco*  
**Camilla Smith**, *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

## Blessing of Grape Clusters

Traditional Greek Orthodox Prayer

**Father Stephen Kyriacou**, *Dean*  
*Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral*

We give thanks to you, O God, and we offer You the firstlings of the fruits You have granted us to receive; through Your Word You nourished them, ordering the earth to bring forth all fruits for the enjoyment and nourishment of people and for all animals. We praise You, O God, for all these things and in all the things in which You have assisted us, for us adorning the whole creation with various fruits; through Your Child Jesus Christ Our Lord, through Whom be glory to you for the ages of ages. Amen.

## **Final Musical Offering**

### **“Where Have All the Flowers Gone”**

*Led by **Brian Vouglas***

Where have all the flowers gone, long time passing?  
Where have all the flowers gone, long time ago?  
Where have all the flowers gone?  
Gone to young girls, every one!  
When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?

Where have all the young girls gone, long time passing?  
Where have all the young girls gone, long time ago?  
Where have all the young girls gone?  
Gone to young men, every one!  
When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?

Where have all the young men gone, long time passing?  
Where have all the young men gone, long time ago?  
Where have all the young men gone?  
Gone to soldiers, every one!  
When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?

And where have all the soldiers gone, long time passing?  
Where have all the soldiers gone, a long time ago?  
Where have all the soldiers gone?  
Gone to graveyards, every one!  
When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?

And where have all the graveyards gone, long time passing?  
Where have all the graveyards gone, long time ago?  
Where have all the graveyards gone?  
Gone to flowers, every one!  
When will they ever learn, oh when will they ever learn?

In recognition of the final day of the  
50<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance of the  
**“Summer of Love”**

## **POSTLUDE**

*As people exit the chapel they take a cluster from the blessed grapes*

## **Co-Sponsors**



**Interfaith Center at the Presidio**



**United Religions Initiative**